

## **Lower Payette CWMA 2003 End of Year Report**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Lower Payette Cooperative Weed Management Area is a joint weed control and weed awareness effort between Payette, Gem, and Washington Counties. The logic behind the formation of the LPCWMA is to use all available resources consisting of knowledge, ingenuity, labor, equipment, and any other available resources to create a more effective short and long-range plan for the prevention, eradication and control of invasive species in the Lower Payette River Watershed. This LPCWMA is intended to bring together those responsible for weed management and the control of weeds on such lands within the Lower Payette River Watershed.

The LPCWMA encompasses approximately 616,000 acres in the southwest portion of Idaho. Rural communities included in this cooperative are Emmett, Fruitland, New Plymouth, Payette and a portion of Weiser. Payette County is fully encompassed by this CWMA. This weed management area is bordered on the west by the Snake River with the north border being the Weiser River, the boundary then runs south to the Canyon County line and east to Black Canyon Dam located in Gem County. (See Map, Appendix III.)

Cooperators for the 2003 field season included Gem, Payette, and Washington Counties, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Power, the Nez Perce Tribe, University of Idaho, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service, local irrigation companies, drainage districts, private landowners, and numerous others.

Cooperators worked jointly to:

- \*Educate the general public concerning the importance of noxious weed identification.
- \*Prevention and Eradication of threatening species to susceptible areas
- \*The treatment of individual weed species and or infestations.
- \*To jointly coordinate all available resources including personnel and equipment needed to accomplish group goals.
- \*To coordinate the control of prioritized noxious weeds using the IWMP approach.

The lower Payette CWMA's major weed problems are Eurasian Watermilfoil, Russian Knapweed, Purple Loosestrife, Scotch Thistle, Rush Skeletonweed and White Top. Cooperators continue to monitor Yellow Starthistle sites in which eradication efforts have taken place in past years. To date no escapes have been found. Payette County has discovered a few satellite infestations of invasive species not yet declared noxious by the Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture but are nonetheless considered a threat to our great lands of Idaho.

The LPCWMA wishes to express their appreciation to the Board of Gem County Commissioners, especially Commissioner Ed Mansfield, County Commissioner of Payette County, especially Commissioner Dennis Codr, and the Washington County

Commissioners, especially Commissioner Roy Mink for their continued support of this groups unrelenting efforts in the was against noxious weeds. In addition we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to our steering Committee and County Advisory Boards, without you this would not have been possible. The LPCWMA would like to take this opportunity to Thank Russ Manwaring & Arin Nesbitt for their assistance with the administrative duties of the cooperative. At this time we would like to tip our hats to private landowners, and other agencies that help make the LPCWMA such a success in its fourth year.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

#### Inventory and Mapping

The Washington County Weed Department mapped by a total of 96.5 acres of treated weeds in 2003. Weed species included: Scotch thistle, Rush skeletonweed, Russian knapweed, Perennial Pepperweed, White top, and Purple loosestrife (with additional mapping done by Idaho Power employee Marie Kerr.

Mapping with GPS has been a high priority within to the Washington County cooperators. Extensive mapping was done during the Paddock Valley Project however the hard drive on our computer crashed soon after and all data was lost. Not all sites were remapped due to accessibility however numerous locations were redone.

#### Education

Zone #3 coordinated education efforts with the Lower Weiser River CWMA and held their annual public weed tour in the Paddock Valley in mid June. 40 plus people attended with speakers including representatives from Idaho Dept. of Lands, BLM and the Weiser River Soil Conservation District. The Vogel Ranch served as the hub for this unique tour which was located in one central area. Tour goers were shown the area treated this spring by cooperators at the Payette County line emphasizing the results of the early spring treatment. A history of the Vogel Ranch and the weed problems they have encountered as well as Paddock Valley Reservoir and the impacts of recreational users in regards to the noxious weed spread. A severe storm the previous evening did not dampen tour goers spirits and actually allowed for those in the midst of haying to attend.

#### New Invaders

Cooperators within Zone #3 targeted Russian knapweed and Purple loosestrife as the New Invaders for this past year. Approximately 8 acres of Purple loosestrife were treated before Idaho Power and the Weed Department were forced to exit due to a somewhat large rattlesnake population. Treatments will be continued in the future to ensure this does not spread and infect Little Willow Creek which irrigates thousands of acres of previous farmland. A total of 8 acres of Russian knapweed were treated with 17 being

covered in search of escaping plants. Eradication efforts will continue in the future to prevent the spread of this new invader to this area.

#### Control/Contain

Washington County efforts were once again concentrated in the southeast portion of Washington County known as the Paddock Valley. The project area included both the north and south ends of Paddock Reservoir and the Linson Creek drainage. Cooperators included Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Idaho Power, private landowners, and Gem, Payette and Washington County Weed Departments. The Vogel's have continued with their extensive revegetation efforts in addition to more plantings along Linson Creek. This creek was heavily infested with Scotch thistle which previously took 10 or so volunteers all day to treat now took only a few hours with a couple backpack sprayers which were later followed up by some reconnaissance efforts which the landowner performed with herbicide and mechanically removing with a shovel. A fire burned hundreds of acres of rangeland in this area in August and the Idaho Department of Lands in conjunction with Tom Vogel plan to reseed approximately 60 acres sometime in December. Target weeds included Scotch thistle, Rush skeletonweed, White Top, Perennial pepperweed, Canada thistle and Hounds tongue. An estimated 250+ acres were treated during the three day project.

## GEM COUNTY

### EDUCATION:

**\$499.00**

For this year's Education Project, GCWC worked with IDF&G to have signs made and posted at three popular fishing ponds near Emmett. Sawyer's Ponds and the Airport Pond are owned by the F&G and are stocked with trout as a public fishery. These ponds all have infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil. The signs posted had Lower Payette CWMA, Gem County Weed Control, and IDF&G logos and warned of the presence of this aquatic noxious weed. It also asked people to remove all aquatic plant parts from boats and equipment before leaving to prevent its spread. An estimated 400 people have read these signs.

Gem County also more than matched a purchase of Noxious Weed Identification booklets (BUL. 816) from the University of Idaho. These will be given away for free to any interested person.

LPCWMA – signs	\$300.00	booklets	\$174.05	RC&D	\$24.95
In-Kind	\$533.33				

GCWC – planning & ordering signs		Hours	\$60.00	Equip	\$85.00
IDF&G – posting 3 signs					
Material	\$103.00	Hours	\$200.00	Equip	\$85.00

LPCWMA – booklets \$174.05

GCWC \$252.60

No. booklets – 115 X 3.50@ = 402.50 + 24.15 shipping      Total      \$426.65

New Invaders and Limited Infestations \$1421.28

Gem County has been fortunate this past season as no new invaders have surfaced. Mid-summer we did receive reports of Jointed Goatgrass growing alongside an irrigation canal. It was found and mapped using GPS units. This fall, GCWC sprayed all the areas of the canal access road where it was found. We will monitor and retreat as necessary. Four acres were treated trying to eradicate 100% of this limited infestation.

LPCWMA – Herbicide      \$87.02  
In-Kind      \$305.00

Investigate the site	Hours	\$80.00	Equip	\$85.00
Treat the site	Hours	\$70.00	Equip	\$70.00
Totals		\$150.00		\$155.00

## **PAYETTE COUNTY**

### **PRIORITY #2      New Invaders**

No new invaders found or treated in 2003.

### **PRIORITY #3      Eurasian Water milfoil**

Continued efforts to control Eurasian Watermilfoil in the Donoho ponds and Greenbelt ponds. Herbicides such as Navigate and Reward were used for treatments. A two (2) person paddle boat equipped with a 12 volt, 15 gallon sprayer was the weapon of choice. Eurasian Watermilfoil identification signs were placed near public accesses to water on the Snake and Payette Rivers.

### **PRIORITY #4      Education Prevention**

Literally thousands of residents were educated through out the year 2003 on Noxious Weed identification and devastation. Payette County participated in the Soil Water Conservation field day which reaches 6 graders from five (5) different cities both Oregon and Idaho. Payette County Fair Booth was occupied by many County employees. Eurasian Watermilfoil signs were placed near water bodies in Payette County to educate people of the danger imposed by this weed. Other activities included presentations to local growers, Kiwanis and Lions Club.

### **PRIORITY #5      Snake River Islands**

Islands treated in 2003 included Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Primary Island treated is named Little Banks. Cooperators from Counties Fish and Game Department and Idaho Power participated. Product of choice was Escort herbicide. Syl-tac was used as a spreading agent. Weeds treated includes; Canada Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Poison Hemlock, Hoary Cress and Salt Cedar. Jet boats were provided by the

Idaho Fish and Game and Idaho Power. ATV's were transported onto islands for treatments. Approximately 20 acres was treated.

**PRIORITY #6      Russian Knapweed & Hoary Cress**

Work continued on the control of Russian Knapweed and Hoary Cress. In 2003 twenty eight (28) private landowners participated in the program. Escort Herbicide was used with Syl-tac to treat approximately 52 acres. Many sights treated were from a few plants to a few acres. This program was piloted in 2001 with County funds and has upwards of 50+ participants.

**PRIORITY #7      Birding Islands**

Cooperation continues with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game on Fish and Game owned properties. Noxious weeds such as Canada Thistle, Whitetop, Poison Hemlock, Field Bindweed and Scotch Thistle were treated. Products used included Escort, Redeem R & P, and Banvel + 2-4D. Approximately 48 acres was treated in a two (2) day period with help from the Bureau of Land Management, Counties, Private Landowners and the Department of Fish and Game. Areas treated were described as the hen pen, coon floom, antelope junction, sage grouse house, muskrat love, gopher gulley, bear basin, the fish bowl, goose roost, deer flats, quail rapids, elk meadows and the turkey tree.

**PRIORITY #8      Drainage Districts**

\$1500.00 in grant funding was contributed to the successful ongoing projects with local drainage districts. Approximately 451 acres of drain was treated in Payette County in 2003 alone. This has alleviated many landowner problems from the weed department. The districts have hired a private contractor to complete all of the herbicide applications. Efforts will continue by the districts to eradicate Noxious Weeds on their easements such as; Poison Hemlock, Scotch Thistle, Hoary Cress, Perennial Pepperweed and other nuisance vegetation.

**PRIORITY #9      Greenbelt Sheep Drive**

No work in 2003 was accomplished on the sheep drive due to coordination conflicts. However, the Payette County Greenbelt was treated with product such as Escort and 2-4D to treat such weeds as; Puncturevine, Poison Hemlock, Scotch Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Perennial Pepperweed and Whitetop. Many people access the greenbelt for recreation use. This not only creates a more scenic experience but controls Noxious Weeds near important water sources.

**PRIORITY #10      Capital Equipment**

A skid spray unit with two (2) one-hundred gallon tanks and 5.5 hp honda engine was purchased in the amount of \$6,175.00 to control Noxious Weeds with \$3175.00 of this money being spent by Payette County.

**PRIORITY #11      Diffuse Knapweed**

Continuing efforts to control or contain Diffuse Knapweed by Cooperators from Bureau of Land Management, Private and County Personnel was done in May 2003.

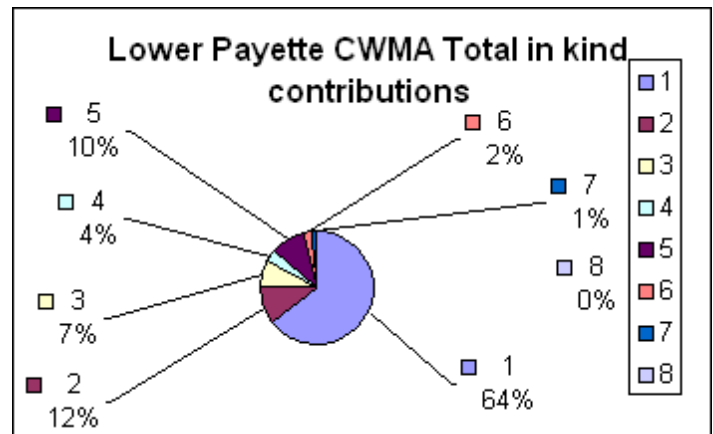
Approximately 30 acres was treated using a method of containment to treat around the outer skirts of the infestation.

Biological agents have been released in the past few years and will continue to be monitored for there success.

### CONTRIBUTIONS:

#### IN KIND TOTAL

1	Counties	\$34,168.35
		\$
2	Landowners	6,219.00
		\$
3	BLM	3,900.00
		\$
4	Dept of Lands	2,050.00
		\$
5	Idaho Power	5,570.00
		\$
6	ID F&G	1,215.00
		\$
7	USFS	360.00
		\$
8	USDA	190.00



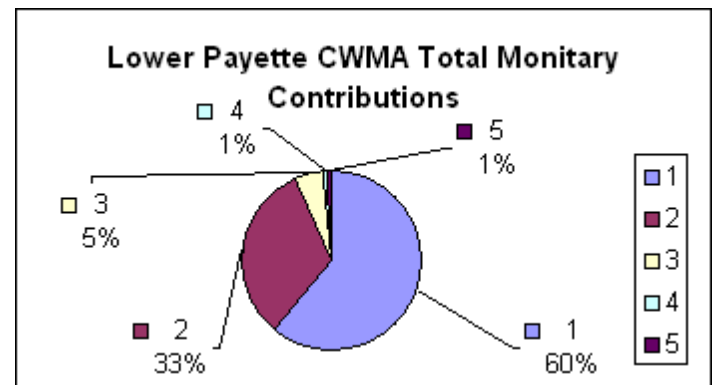
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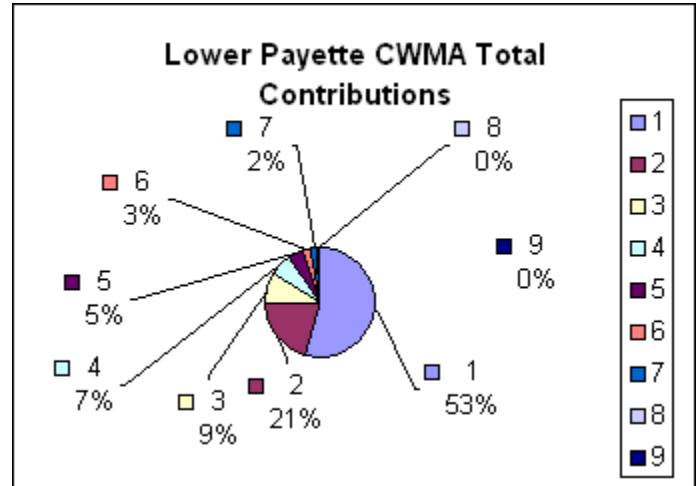
#### MONITARY TOTALS

1	ISDA	\$16,891.85
		\$
2	Counties	9,186.49
		\$
3	Landowners	1,351.60
		\$
4	ID F&G	223.33
		\$
5	Idaho Power	174.90



## TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1	Counties	\$43,354.84
2	ISDA	\$16,891.85
3	Landowners	\$7,570.60
4	Idaho Power	\$5,744.90
5	BLM	\$3,900.00
6	Dept of Lands	\$2,050.00
7	ID F&G	\$1,438.33
8	USFS	\$360.00
9	USDA	\$190.00



## APPENDIX I

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Name: Richard Hampton, Chairman  
Org: Retired OSU Research  
Rep: Zone #1  
Add: 2170 Bonnie Dr.  
City: Payette, ID 83661  
Phone: 642-1393

Name: TBD  
Org:  
Rep:  
Add:  
City:  
Phone:

Name: Polly Hyde  
Org: Land Owner  
Rep: Zone #1  
Add: PO box 9  
City: Parma, ID 83660  
Phone: 674-2414

Name: Rob Little  
Org: Rancher  
Rep: Zone #1  
Add: 6405 Little  
City: New Plymouth, ID. 8  
Phone: 278-5495

Name: Bob Rauert  
Org: Farmer  
Rep: Zone #1  
Add: 7380 Elmore Rd.  
City: Fruitland, ID. 83619  
Phone: 452-3615

Name: Joy Sisler  
Org: Rancher  
Rep: Zone #2  
Add: 4455 Sunset Dr.  
City: Emmett, ID. 83617  
Phone: 365-2776

Name: Will Cook  
Org: Extension Educator  
Rep: Zone #2  
Add: 2199 S Johns Wy.  
City: Emmett, ID. 83617  
Phone: 365-6363

Name: Tom & Marva Vogel  
Org: Rancher  
Rep: Zone #3  
Add: 114 Paddock Valley  
City: Payette, ID 83661  
Phone: 741-9177



## APPENDIX II

### Project Summaries:

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated
Revegetation	Scotch Thistle, Rush Skeleton Weed, Hoary Cress, Canada Thistle, Houndstongue	60
Treated	Scotch Thistle	145
	Perennial Pepperweed	127
	Poison Hemlock	115
	Hoary Cress	98
	Canada Thistle	92
	Purple Loosestrife	61
	Diffuse Knapweed	30
	Jointed Goatgrass	4
	Eurasian Watermilfoil	2.5
	Puncturevine	1
Public Contacts	N/A	2468